

DARPA-BAA-12-01

Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated: November 1, 2011

SIMPLIFIED PROPOSAL ABSTRACT FORMAT

A. Innovative claims for the proposed research. This section is the centerpiece of the proposal and should succinctly describe the uniqueness and benefits of the proposed approach relative to the current state-of-art alternate approaches.

B. Deliverables associated with the proposed research and the plans and capability to accomplish technology transition and commercialization. Include in this section all proprietary claims to the results, prototypes, intellectual property, or systems supporting and/or necessary for the use of the research, results, and/or prototype. If there are not proprietary claims, this should be stated.

C. Cost, schedule and measurable milestones for the proposed research, including estimates of cost for each task in each year of the effort delineated by the prime and major subcontractors, total cost and company cost share, if applicable. (Note: Measurable milestones should capture key development points in tasks and should be clearly articulated and defined in time relative to start of effort.)

D. Technical rationale, technical approach, and constructive plan for accomplishment of technical goals in support of innovative claims and deliverable production.

E. General discussion of other research in this area.

F. A clearly defined organization chart for the program team which includes, as applicable: (1) the programmatic relationship of team member; (2) the unique capabilities of team members; (3) the task of responsibilities of team members; (4) the teaming strategy among the team members; and (5) the key personnel along with the amount of effort to be expended by each person during each year.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Q: If my research is relevant in this field, but is not geared specifically to meet these goals, is there a solicitation that I can respond to?

A: Yes. DARPA/DSO has an Open solicitation (DARPA-BAA-11-65) for which responses are being collected through 9 Aug 2012.

Q: Is a video recording of the Proposers' Day Workshop available?

A: The workshop will not be available in its entirety, but after editing, government presentations (slide decks and video) will be made available for download from the teaming website.

PROPOSALS

Q: Can a prime or collaborator be an international company?

A: Yes, international companies and universities are acceptable.

Q: Is subcontracting to a National Lab or Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) permitted? Are there any collaboration restrictions?

A: Government entities are permitted – proposer should comply with the section on FFRDCs as stated within the BAA. There are no collaboration restrictions.

Q: Can a submission cross two technical areas like I and III?

A: Yes. Per the BAA, "Abstracts and proposals must address one or more of the following Focus Areas and must specify the areas for the proposed work."

Q: Is abstract submission required?

A: Although strongly encouraged, an abstract is not required. Per the BAA, "DARPA will review all full proposals submitted using the published evaluation criteria and without regard to any comments resulting from the review of an abstract."

Q: Will any response be provided to abstracts?

A: It is anticipated that replies will be made on whether proposals are encouraged or discouraged.

Q: Are there any particular proposal abstract elements for example we should definitely include and others we can leave out? For the abstract, are all sections required?

A: Even if only briefly, the entirety of Section II (Section I is simply the cover sheet) should be addressed in an abstract submission.

Q: Are quad charts (PowerPoint slides) required with the abstract? Do quad charts count towards the page limit?

A: Quad charts are not required but are permitted; however, the chart/slide counts toward the page limit, and hence each proposer must decide if its inclusion will yield a net positive.

Q: Do the summary milestone tables outlined in pages 10 and 11 of the BAA have to be included in the proposal abstract? Or can they wait until the full proposal?

A: As stated in the BAA, "A table depicting the technical milestones for all proposed Focus Areas is required in full proposals only."

Q: Should we include CVs/resumes for key personnel? Should we submit the CVs of the PIs as supplementary material?

A: At the abstract stage, CVs/resumes are neither required nor requested.

Q: References can go anywhere at the end, as long as it still comes in under 8 pages? Can you please clarify if the references have to be included in 8 pages of the abstract?

A: References can be appended to the end of the abstract and do not count towards the page limit.

TEAMING

Q: Is it possible for one of the Principal Investigators of our sub-contractors in the team to participate in another proposal as a Principal Investigator as well? Is it possible for one investigator to participate in two proposals that are completely different and there is no COI?

A: Yes.

COST

Q: What is the overall DARPA budget for GRAPHS? Are there funding limits for individual proposals?

A: The investment profile for GRAPHS has not been fixed at this time. The final program will depend on the proposals selected for funding. At this time, no single-project funding limits have been set.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Q: How many awards are anticipated?

A: The number of awards will depend on the merits of the proposals received and funds available.

Q: Later phases of the project might require large data sets; say those related to computer network operations. What is DARPA's (or the DoD) position on giving researchers access to this information to be able to run simulations or verify results?

A: If appropriate, data may be made available to one or several teams during the course of the GRAPHS effort. However, if a proposing team's approach is predicated on the use of data (and in particular, data of a specific kind), it is incumbent on the proposers to anticipate this need and mitigate it accordingly. In other words, a passive approach to the data issue is discouraged.

TECHNICAL

Q: Is my topic consistent with the objectives of the BAA?

A: DARPA is not able to suggest specific research approaches. If you feel that your chosen effort is consistent with the objectives of the BAA and capable of meeting the

goals stated within the BAA, then you should feel free to propose them. It is strongly encouraged that you read the BAA carefully. It is your burden to make clear within your proposal that your approach is supportive of your innovative claims, and includes a detailed analysis of the technical motivation.

Q: Is a geospatial/sociospatial based approach to this research far off from target for what you are looking for?

A: Any approach that addresses the issues that you mention ("many of today's theories do not capture real-world dynamics of connectivity, flow, and evolution") is encouraged.